

CPEC

CPEC's University Eligibility Studies

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The California Postsecondary Education Commission periodically conducts studies to estimate the percentage of California public high school graduates who meet the admission requirements of California State University and the University of California. Education Code §66903(q) directs CPEC to conduct eligibility studies. The studies are done in cooperation with the two university systems and the California Department of Education. The most recent eligibility study was for the high school graduating class of 2007. The previous study was for the class of 2003.

Eligibility studies are conducted by collecting transcripts from a sample of public high schools. Each transcript is reviewed by university staff to see if the pattern of courses, grades, and test scores would make the student eligible for admission. For the 2007 study, more than 72,000 transcripts from 158 schools were evaluated. Statewide eligibility rates were estimated from the sample using a method developed by a statistical consultant to the study.

The 2007 study showed that UC's eligibility rate is slightly higher than the Master Plan recommendation of 12½%, and that CSU eligibility is very close to the Master Plan recommendation of 33⅓%. Breaking down the results by racial/ethnic groups showed that eligibility rates for Black and Latino high school graduates have improved in recent years, particularly for CSU, but there are still large differences between groups.

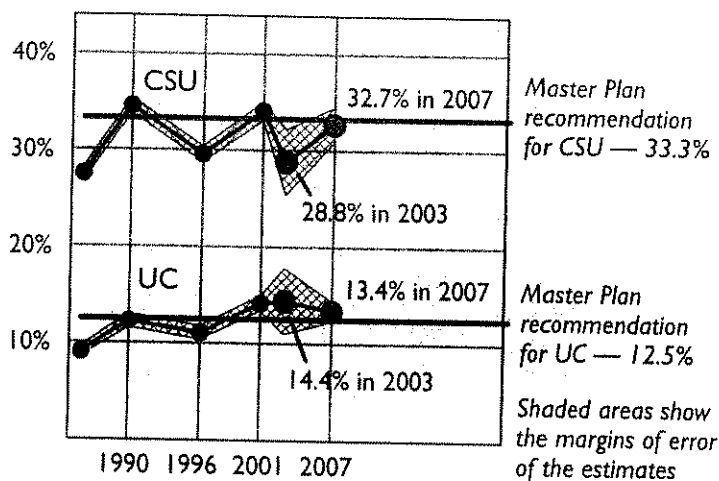
Use of Eligibility Studies

Eligibility studies provide a basis for determining whether UC and CSU need to adjust their eligibility requirements to bring eligibility into line with the figures recommended in the Master Plan.

In addition, reviewing transcripts from the entire graduating classes of the sampled schools shows why students do not qualify for admission. This information can be used to identify obstacles, such as limited course offerings, that prevent some students from qualifying for UC and CSU.

Past studies have given estimates of regional eligibility rates. These can be used to assess how eligibility varies across the state and to see if progress has been made in giving all students the opportunity to qualify for university admission.

Percent of California public high school graduates eligible for UC and CSU



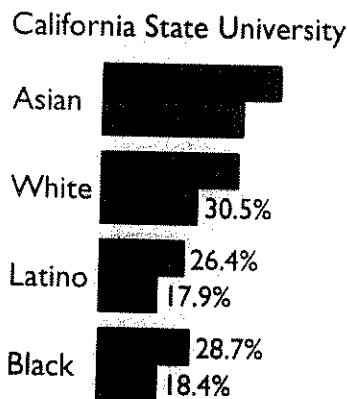
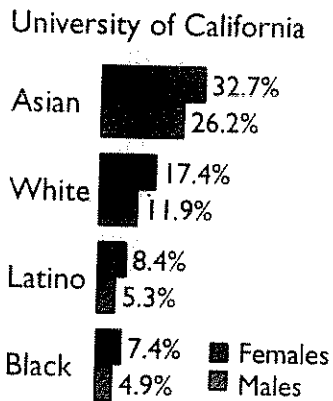
Estimates from CPEC studies, 1983–2007

The Eligibility Pool

The racial and ethnic composition of the eligibility pool — the high school graduates eligible for UC and CSU — has changed as a result of changes in eligibility rates and changes in the composition of California's high school graduating class. The Latino eligibility pool has grown sharply, with the number of Latinos eligible for CSU up by an increase of 55% from 2003.

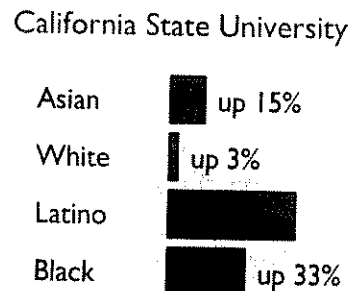
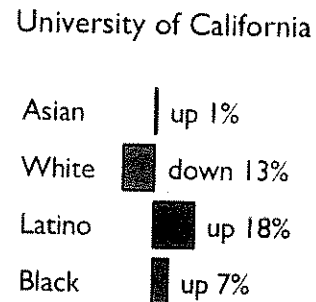
The eligibility pool is becoming predominantly female. Higher graduation rates for female high school students, combined with higher eligibility rates mean that the eligibility pools for both university systems are now about 60% female.

The Gender Gap 2007 Eligibility Rates by Gender



Growth in the Eligibility Pool 2003–2007

The eligibility pool is becoming more Latino. Between 2003 and 2007, increased eligibility rates, combined with growth in the number of Latino high school graduates, have resulted in a 55% increase in the number of Latinos eligible for CSU.



More information is in the report *University Eligibility Study for the Class of 2007* available at www.cpec.ca.gov/completereports/2008reports/08-20.pdf